

Introduction:

1. Describe a time when have you been the recipient of surprising and unexpected material generosity. How did you react?
2. What example of greed has outraged you the most? Why?

Understanding:

3. Read Luke 12:15-21. What is the rich man trusting? What is his attitude toward life? Should the man give away everything he owns? Why or why not? Is there any similarity at all between your life and that of the man in the parable?
4. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. What is the danger in having plenty of money? Is being rich automatically condemned here? How does Paul’s mention of the “coming age” personally encourage you?
5. Read Proverbs 23:4. How do you see the right balance between being a good provider and going over the top to maximize your income?
6. Read Proverbs 15:27. When are you most tempted to break the rules for the sake of money? What is the remedy?
7. In today’s passage Zacchaeus rejoiced to see that Jesus had chosen the least virtuous person in the crowd—himself—for a personal relationship. How about you? When you think about God, do you think of Him as someone who knows how messed up you are, and yet He invites himself into your life anyway? Or do you view God as someone who expects you to clean up your act first, before you can come to Him? Which of these two attitudes is most helpful in overcoming greed? Why?
8. In verse 9 Jesus said to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.” Did Zacchaeus do good in order to get into Jesus good graces---or is something else happening here? Why did Zacchaeus become so generous? And how does this apply to your own generosity?
9. Read Revelation 3:17-20. Revelation 3:20 is a famous evangelism verse. But note that it’s a follow-up to having the correct attitude towards riches. What is the true condition of the rich in this passage? What is the beautiful fruit of repenting from that attitude? How does that encourage you?

Application:

10. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9. Paul the Apostle is appealing to the people of Corinth to be generous and give toward an offering to provide famine relief. If you’re struggling with the concept of how God’s grace affects your generosity, a great place to start is to meditate on this verse: 2 Corinthians 8:9. What is Jesus’ attitude in that verse? How does that affect our own heart? Ask the Lord what step of faith to take as a fruit of your heart change.
11. Read James 2:5. Generosity is about even more than money and can be a way of life. How does being “rich in faith” free you to open your home and your schedule and your heart to the people around you?
12. After hearing this sermon do you need to repent of greed in your life? What specific form has that greed taken? Pray for forgiveness for the greed and also for a specific way to be generous as you make the 180 degree turn from greed.